THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS'

MILLENNIAL STAR.

"The earth also is defiled under the inhabitants thereof; because they have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant."
—ISAIAH xxiv, 5.

No. 51, Vol. XLVIII. Monday, December 20, 1886. Price One Penny.

AN EPISTLE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE TWELVE APOSTLES.

TO THE SAINTS SCATTERED ABROAD, GREETING.

DEAR Brethren,—I feel desirous to express myself upon the present condition of Zion and its inhabitants. The history which we are making as Latter-day Saints is strictly in fulfillment of the revelations of God, as given through the mouths of prophets and inspired men to the inhabitants of the earth in every dispensation when God has had an acknowledged people on the earth. The God of heaven, who created this earth and placed His children upon it, gave unto them a law whereby they might be exalted and saved in a kingdom of glory. For there is a law given unto all kingdoms, and all things are governed by law throughout the whole universe. Whatever law anyone keeps he is preserved by that law, and he receives whatever reward that law guarantees unto him. It is the will of God that all His children should obey the highest law, that they may receive the highest glory that is ordained for all immortal beings. But God has given all His children an agency, to choose what law they will keep.

These two principles do exist, good and evil, God and the Devil. Whatever leads to good and to do good is of God. Whatever leads to evil and to do evil is of the Devil. God has labored from the creation of man to lead him to keep the celestial law, that he may inherit a celestial glory and partake of eternal life, the greatest of all the gifts of God to man; while the Devil, with all the fallen angels, has labored from the creation to lead man astray, to lead him down to the perdition of ungodly men, that he may have dominion over him.

These two principles have governed and controled the acts of all the children of men, and laid the foundation for all the history of the whole world for the last six thousand years, or from the creation of man. This power of the Devil, and of all the fallen angels, who are represented to have been one-third part of all the hosts of heaven, who were cast down from heaven to earth, has been at war against God and His Christ, and against every Prophet and Apostle and inspired man whom

God has raised up, from the creation of the world to the present day. The first man, Adam, under the influence of the Devil, transgressed a law by which death came into the world. God the Eternal Father gave His only begotten Son, as a great sacrifice, to shed His blood to redeem man from death. For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

The God of heaven, whom we worship, is represented as the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost. The Father and Son have tabernacles, and they created man after their own image. But the Holy Ghost is a spirit and a witness and a testimony of the Father and the Son. This Holy Ghost and witness are promised unto all men who will obey the law of the Gospel, which God has revealed to the human family. This Holy Ghost rested upon Adam when he blessed his posterity in Adam-ondi-Ahman, three years previous to his death.

The Lord gave unto Adam and many of his sons the Holy Priesthood, whereby they could administer in the ordinances of the Gospel of life and salvation. The Lord has raised up men in every dispensation, when He has had a people on earth, unto whom He has given the Priesthood, and all people have been blessed when they have hearkened to the voice of the Lord. On the other hand, when the inhabitants of the earth have become wicked, and have transgressed the law of God, they have been chastised, and when they have become ripened in iniquity they have been cut off from the earth, as in the case of Noah and Lot, and "as it was in the days of Noe, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of Man." The righteous were saved while the wicked were destroyed.

The whole history of the dealings of the Lord with man has shown the benefits and blessings of obeying the Lord and keeping His commandments. The history of the dealings of the Lord with ancient Israel shows that He blessed the righteous and cursed the wicked and brought His judgments upon them. Whenever Israel hearkened to the teachings of Moses and the prophets, they prospered, and their enemies were a prey unto them. But when they departed from the Lord and set up altars to Baal, and committed sin, the Lord forsook them, as in the case of Judah and Jerusalem, in the days of Zedekiah the King. He forsook the Lord, and led the people astray. They were full of blood and murder and whoredom and all manner of abominations, and the Lord warned them through His Prophets, Isaiah, Jeremiah and Ezekiel. These Prophets told the king and the people what judgments would come upon them, and the Lord said by Ezekiel unto the king and to the people, "What I have spoken shall be done." Now all that these Prophets said came to pass. Not one jot nor tittle fell unfulfilled. The Jews put to death the Savior and the Apostles, and rejected the Lord and the Gospel; and all that Moses, Jesus, the Apostles and the Prophets spoke concerning Israel, Judah and Jerusalem, came to pass to the very letter.

All the Prophets and Apostles who have written since man was placed upon the earth have seen our day, and have prophesied of the events which were to take place on the earth in the last dispensation and fullness of times. They have seen the Church of God, the Zion of God, and the Kingdom of God established on the earth, and the gathering of the people from all nations to build them up, and the judgments of God which were to rest, in the last days, upon all nations who should fight against Mount Zion and the people of God. Now I wish to ask the Latter-day Saints if they can for a moment think that the Lord will fail in these days in fulfilling His promises any more than He has in other dispensations? No, He will not.

In fulfillment of His sayings through the mouths of those ancient Apostles and Prophets, the Lord has set His hand once more, for the last time, to prune His vineyard and to establish His Church and kingdom upon the earth, to be thrown down no more forever. He has raised up His Prophets and Apostles and revealed unto them the fullness of the everlasting Gospel, and given unto them the everlasting Priesthoods of Aaron and of Melchisedek. Joseph Smith was raised up by the power of God, and the administration of angels, and he

brought forth the Book of Mormon, the record and stick of Joseph in the hands of Ephraim, as spoken of by the Prophet Ezekiel in the 37th chapter. This Prophet of God, Joseph Smith, had power to organize the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, according to the ancient order of the Church of Christ, with Apostles and Prophets, Evangelists, Bishops, Pastors and Teachers. And the Church has been led continually by living oracles and the revelations of God from heaven until the present day. It has now stood fifty-six years since its organization, and its history is before the heavens and the earth. The Prophets and Apostles and many Elders have gone forth and preached the Gospel of Jesus Christ to many nations, and tens of thousands of the inhabitants of the earth have embraced the Gospel, been baptized for the remission of their sins, have received the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands, and have been gathered home to Zion from many nations, in fulfillment of the ancient Prophets, who spoke as they were moved upon by the Holy Ghost. Earth and hell have been combined to stop the little stone from rolling, and from becoming a mountain and filling the whole earth, as Daniel said it should in the last days. Joseph Smith, his brother Hyrum, with several of the Apostles and Elders and many Saints, have already sealed their testimony with their blood, and to-day prisons are crowded with the Elders of Israel for keeping the commandments of God, and many others have been driven into exile for the same cause.

Many of the inhabitants of the land are stirred up and are desirous to destroy the Church and Kingdom of God from off the earth. But they know not the thoughts of the Lord, neither understand they His ways. The Gentile or Christian world to-day can no more commit sins, and be guilty of lying, stealing, blasphemy, whoredom or murder, or committing abominations, and escape the wrath of God, than could Sodom and Gomorrah, or the ante-diluvian world, or ancient Israel. The word of the Lord has been proclaimed against the Gentiles and all the inhabitants of the earth in the last days who commit sin, and it will as assuredly be fulfilled as in ancient days. The Lord has a controversy with this generation, and He will judge the inhabitants according to the deeds done in the body, and none can stay His hand.

I want to say to the Saints of God who dwell in the flesh to-day, that the fifty-six years which have passed away since the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, have taken into the spirit world all our Prophets, Apostles, Elders and Saints who have finished their testimony in the flesh. Their voice is hushed in death and their testimony is closed. They are mingling with the spirits of the righteous, and waiting for the great day of the coming of the Son of Man, when Jesus Christ will come in the clouds of heaven to reward every man according to the deeds done in the body. But though they have passed away, is the work of God finished on the earth? Verily no. Has the warning voice ceased to be heard by the inhabitants of the earth? It has not. All of us who remain in the flesh are under as much obligation to lift the warning voice and reap while the day lasts as were those who have passed away.

The Lord said to Ezekiel, "I have made thee a watchman unto the House of Israel." "When I say unto the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand. Yet if thou warn the wicked, and he turn not from his wickedness, nor from his wicked way, he shall die in his iniquity; but thou hast delivered thy soul." This is precisely our condition to-day. As Apostles, Seventies, High Priests and Elders, we and all men who bear any portion of the Holy Priesthood, are watchmen upon the walls of Zion and messengers to all the inhabitants of the earth, and all of us will be held responsible if we do not improve our time and lift the warning voice, as far as we have opportunity, and warn this generation of the judgments of God which await them.

I know the judgments of God are very nigh unto the door of this nation, and this generation, and they will overtake the world before it is prepared for that time. Even the coming of the Son of Man is nigh, and he will come as a thief in the night. Who is prepared to abide the day of His coming? It is our duty to labor and reap. Then every man should be diligent in that sphere in which he is called to act, that his garments may be clean from the blood of all men.

I do not believe there was ever a generation of men who inhabited the earth who were more wicked, or who were practicing greater abominations, or who were sinning against greater light and knowledge, or who had a greater flood of judgments proclaimed against them by the word of the Lord, than the generation in which we live. Therefore, as Saints of the living God, who bear the Holy Priesthood, we shall be under condemnation if we do not lift up the warning voice against the evils and abominations which exist, so far as we have opportunity. How many woes the Prophets and Apostles have proclaimed against those who fight against Zion. "Woe unto all those who discomfort my people, and drive and murder them, and testify against them, saith the Lord of hosts. A generation of vipers shall not escape the damnation of hell. Behold, mine eyes see and know all their works, and I have in reserve a swift judgment, in the season thereof, for them all. For there is a time appointed for every man, according as his work shall be."

I will say to the Apostles, our responsibility is very great. The Prophets who organized the Church and laid the foundation of this last dispensation, with a whole Quorum of Apostles, have finished their testimony and gone into the spirit world. We have been called to take their places. What manner of men ought we to be? The whole earth is ripening in iniquity, and the Zion of God should be prepared for the coming of the bridegroom. We should humble ourselves before the Lord, and be in a position to be filled with the spirit of our calling, with the Holy Ghost, and with the revelations of Jesus Christ, that we may know the mind and will of God concerning us, and be prepared to magnify our calling and bring to pass righteousness, and be valiant in the testimony of Jesus Christ to the end of our pilgrimage here in the flesh. The Prophets, Apostles, and all the heavenly hosts are watching over us. There never was a time when the work of God required a more faithful testimony and labor from the Apostles and Elders than to-day.

I would say to the Seventies, who stand connected with the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles, as messengers to the nations of the earth, it has fallen to your lot to go forth and assist to prune the vineyard once more, and for the last time, before the coming of the Son of Man. The Lord said, fifty-seven years ago, that the field was white for the harvest, and He had set His hand to prune the vineyard once more, and for the last time. The Elders were commanded at that day to thrust in their sickle and reap while it was called to-day, for soon night would come, when no man could reap. Brethren, it is much nearer night now than it was fifty-seven years ago. The Savior said at that day, that the angels were crying day and night for the privilege to go forth and reap down the earth. He informed them they must wait a little season until the harvest was fully ripe. The nations must be warned, Zion must be established, and the wheat, or the Saints, be gathered into the garner, then the angels might go forth and reap the tares, gather them in bundles and prepare them for the burning.

Since that day many thousands of the Saints have been gathered to Zion from the nations of the earth. But you are called upon at this late day to still go forth and warn the Gentiles with the proclamation of the Gospel. Therefore, brethren, you who are called to go into the vineyard, whether Apostles, High Priests, Seventies, or Elders, do not be weary in well doing. Remember, you are messengers of salvation. Keep yourselves pure and spotless before God and all men. Seek to bring to pass righteousness, and save the souls of men. Labor faithfully that your garments may be clean

from the blood of all men, and that the nations may be left without excuse in the day of God's judgments upon the wicked, which is nigh at hand, and those judgments will be poured out without measure.

All the messengers in the vineyard should be righteous and holy men, and call upon the Lord in mighty prayer, in order to prevail. It is the privilege of every Elder in Israel, who is laboring in the vineyard, if he will live up to his privileges, to have dreams, visions and revelations, and the Holy Ghost as a constant companion, that he may be able thoroughly to gather out the blood of Israel and the meek of the earth, and bring them into the fold of Christ.

It is true that the Elders who are called to bear record of the Gospel of Christ to the nations of the earth are many times called to pass through persecution for the Gospel's sake, and in some instances to lay down their lives, as did the ancient Saints, and quite a number in our day, for Christ's sake. But there seems to be a special crown of glory laid up for every man who is martyred for Christ's sake and the Gospel's. No matter in what age of the world he lays down his life for Christ's sake, he will find it again, and eternal life in the world to come. Therefore, brethren, let us be diligent in our labors in this last hour in the vineyard. The Lord said to Oliver Cowdery, if he labored all the days of his life and saved but one soul, how great would be his joy in the kingdom of heaven with that one soul. We have everything to encourage us in our labors in the vineyard of the Lord.

While this labor is going on among the nations of the earth, there is a great labor and responsibility resting upon the whole ministry who dwell in Zion. There is labor sufficient for every man who bears any portion of the Holy Priesthood, in the various capacities in which the brethren are called to act. The High Priests, whose calling is to preside, are called upon to officiate in Zion as High Councilors, Presidents of Stakes and Counselors, Bishops and Counselors, Superintendents of Sabbath Schools and Mutual Improvement Associations. In every capacity in which they are called to act, they have an immense field in which to improve their talents and magnify their calling. Here is where the High Priests are mainly called to preside, officiate and labor.

There never was a time when the Holy Priesthood, in its various branches, offices and labors, had a greater work to perform, than in our day. The searching out of iniquity, the purifying, sanctifying and cleansing of the people, the uniting of the Saints and the general perfecting of Zion, rest upon the brethren and the Holy Priesthood who dwell in Zion.

The whole Church, both priest and people, should give diligent heed to the late Epistle of the First Presidency, which has been published to the world. The counsel they have given upon the various items they have referred to should be strictly carried out. The breaking of the Sabbath day, and pleasure excursions upon that day, should not be indulged in by the Latter-day Saints. The Presidents of Stakes and their Counselors, the Bishops and their Counselors, whose immediate duty it is to watch over the Stakes and Wards, have a great responsibility and duty to perform. Iniquity must be sought out. Zion cannot prosper when sin and iniquity are permitted to dwell in her midst.

One of the most important and responsible fields of labor in Zion is that committed to the care of those who preside over and teach in the primaries, Sabbath schools, and improvement associations, and those who are teaching private day schools among the Latter-day Saints. Who can comprehend the result of the labor performed by the Elders of Israel in these Branches? No man, unless filled with the revelations of heaven and the inspiration of Almighty God. We send out hundreds of Elders, who go to the nations of the earth to preach the Gospel of Christ. After spending two or three years as missionaries, if they have converted a dozen souls and brought them into the Church, they think they have done a good work, which they certainly have. But here, the Elders who are presiding over and teaching in these

institutions in Zion, filled with the children of the Latter-day Saints, have an army of immortal souls before them to guide and teach, and to direct their minds, that they may be qualified to step forth and take hold of the Church and kingdom of God and build it up and bear it off triumphantly, after their fathers and elders are laid in the tomb. O what a mission is given to the sons of Ephraim, the Elders of Israel, the Latter-day Saints! To warn the whole world of the judgments which are to come, preach the Gospel to all people, gather the Saints from all nations, build up Zion, and prepare for the coming of the Son of Man, standing in holy places, while judgments waste the wicked.

There is one admonition of our Savior that all the Saints of God should observe, but which, I fear, we do not as we should, and that is, to pray always and faint not. I fear, as a people, we do not pray enough, in faith. We should call upon the Lord in mighty prayer, and make all our wants known unto Him. For if He does not protect and deliver us and save us, no other power will. Therefore our trust is entirely in Him. Therefore our prayers should ascend into the ears of our heavenly Father day and night.

I want to say a few words to our brethren who are in prison, or under bonds, or driven into exile for our religion, or for keeping the commandments of God. You should not think that any strange thing has happened unto you. Persecution is a legacy that has been handed down from father Adam to our day. It was said of old that all men who lived godly in Christ Jesus should suffer persecution. If we meet with no persecution in our day, we shall hardly feel at home when we go into the spirit world and meet with the ancient prophets and with Christ and the Apostles, who passed through much persecution and tribulation. Many of them were crucified or otherwise put to death. They sealed their testimony with their own blood, as was the case with Joseph and Hyrum and several of the Apostles, Elders and Saints in our day.

As Elders of Israel, while we are passing through these afflictions, let us not cherish revenge or hatred in our hearts towards our persecutors. "Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord." Jesus Christ, the Son of God, when nailed to the cross, and while in the agony of death, cried, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." Why did He say this to His Father in heaven? Because the Son of God knew full well what would be the result of His death upon the heads of His murderers. He knew what awaited the whole Jewish nation, when that people said, "Let His blood be on us, and on our children." He fully comprehended the great suffering that awaited the Jews and their posterity, for the next eighteen hundred years. He knew that all that Moses and the Prophets, as well as what He had spoken Himself, against the Jewish nation, would come to pass; for God had spoken it through them, and His words never fail.

No infidel on earth can deny the fact that Jerusalem was overthrown, the foundation of the Temple dug up and not one stone left upon another. The Jews fell by famine, by pestilence, and by the sword, until twelve hundred thousand dead bodies were carried through the gates outside of the walls of Jerusalem during the distress of the siege under Titus, and a remnant was taken captive and scattered throughout the world among the gentile nations, and the Jews have been a hiss and a by-word, and have been trampled under the feet of the Gentiles until the present day, and the end is not yet, the yoke is not yet broken from off their necks.

All this has come to pass in fulfillment of the word of God to the Jewish nation. So I say to all my brethren who are in exile, or in prison, for the Gospel's sake, or for keeping the commandments of God, do not harbor any vengeance or hatred against this nation, or against those who have aided or abetted in your sufferings, but rather go before the Lord and pray that He will soften the hearts of the rulers of the nation, that they will give unto the Latter-day Saints the same rights and privileges in the worshiping of God according to the dictates of their own consciences as are guaranteed by the Constitution of our

government, which was given by the inspiration of the God of heaven for a wise purpose in Himself.

If I am asked why I make this request of my brethren, I answer, for the same reason that Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do." For as the God of heaven fulfilled all His words which He spoke concerning Judea and Jerusalem, so will He fulfill all that He has spoken concerning the Gentiles and all the nations of the earth in the last days.

I will here say, as truly as the God of heaven lives, and has established His throne on high, just so truly will He bring to pass the fulfillment of His words. He will pour out that flood of judgments upon our nation and upon all the nations of the earth, which has been proclaimed by every inspired man since the world began. The seals will be opened, the plagues poured out, and Great Babylon will fall. This generation has been warned for the last fifty years by inspired and righteous men, and after their testimony will come the testimony of thundering, of lightning, of floods, of earthquakes, and of pestilence, and famine, and war, and the flames of devouring fire, for by fire and by sword will the Lord plead with all flesh and the slain of the Lord will be many. For the Lord has said "My sword is bathed in heaven, and it shall fall upon Idumea, or the world; and who is able to stand?"

No power on earth can stay the hand of God in this work. The God of heaven will teach this nation and all other nations on earth, that He is stronger than man. He pays no regard to nations or numbers in the fulfillment of His purposes, for He holds in His hands the destiny of all men and nations, and no power beneath the heavens can hinder His work. The God of Israel has set His hand to gather His people from all nations and build up His Church and establish Zion in all that beauty, power, and glory which Isaiah and other Prophets saw, and to build up His kingdom, which shall fill the whole earth, and in which Jesus of Nazareth will establish His throne and sit thereon, and reign over the earth for one thousand years, as the Prophet Daniel and other Prophets have declared. And it will come to pass in spite of earth and hell and all the unbelief of the whole Christian Gentile world. If our nation or the Gentiles do not believe this, let them wait and see, and they will not have to wait long before they will see the signs manifest of the beginning of these things. So far as the Saints are concerned, the Spirit of God will bear record to their spirits as they read these testimonies, of their truth.

I will close by quoting the testimony of Ezekiel in the 24th chapter, 14th verse:—"I the Lord have spoken it; it shall come to pass, and I will do it; I will not go back, neither will I spare, neither will I repent; according to thy ways, and according to thy doings, shall they judge thee, saith the Lord God."

WILFORD WOODRUFF.

October, 26, 1886.

What tune makes everybody glad? Fortune.

Not a day passes over the earth but men and women of no note do great deeds, speak great words, and suffer noble sorrows. Of these obscure heroes, philosophers, and martyrs, the greater part will never be known till that hour when many that were great shall be small and the small great.

To labor for time, to select the best materials, and to put into them the best workmanship, to give to the world the best thought, the best art, the best teaching of which we are capable, to be as thorough in every performance as we know how to be—this is to work for the future as well as for the present, for those who are to come as well as for those who are here.

Every day and hour we are sowing the seeds of character, which one day will astonish even ourselves by blossoming forth in actions of which we had not supposed ourselves capable.

THE LATTER-DAY SAINTS' MILLENNIAL STAR.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1886.

SHOW US A SIGN.

It is singular how some people find fault with the Latter-day Saints because the Elders do not open the eyes of the blind, cause the lame to walk, and heal all the afflicted, as they testify to the gifts and blessings of the Gospel—the signs following the believer—being restored to the earth. "Show us a sign," or "perform a miracle, and then we will believe," is frequently said by individuals who have a paucity of brains, who vainly imagine that if they saw something miraculous it would have the effect of causing them to believe in God, repent of their sins, and obey the Gospel as taught by the Elders of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, and become righteous men. This class foolishly think that they are justified in rejecting light and truth because the Elders do not heal and restore all they think they ought to, and are very ready to brand the Elders as impostors because they do not come up to their idea of what a servant of God ought to be. We do not know that we should find any fault with this class of carping individuals, for they are simply ignorant, they know very little of what they are talking about, they are simply captious and lack understanding; but for the benefit of the honest in heart we will offer a few reflections for their consideration.

When the Apostles were sent forth by the Savior after His resurrection, He gave them the following instructions: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the Gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned. And these signs shall follow them that believe; in my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues; they shall take up serpents; and if they drink any deadly thing, it shall not hurt them; they shall lay hands upon the sick, and they shall recover." The historian tells us that "They went forth, and preached every where, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following." The Lord performed the miracles; He confirmed the word with the signs following. They were to follow the believer for their blessing and comfort—and they do—but they were not intended to convert, this was not the object. The experience of the Savior had taught Him that signs and miracles would not convert the sinner from the error of his ways, or cause him to love light rather than darkness. He had raised the dead,

opened the eyes of the blind, caused the dumb to speak, but all these signs and miracles, although spread widely abroad, failed to convert the ungodly, but had been a great blessing to the believer. He had been rejected and slain; those who believed on His doctrine were despised and hated, as they are to-day. He knew that miracles came by the will and power of God, and not to please some poor, sinful man.

We are always suspicious of individuals who seek for a sign. They remind us of certain of the Scribes and Pharisees who wanted to see a sign of the Savior, but He answered, "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign." We have representatives of this class of people to-day, and their name is legion. They have no faith themselves, know nothing about it, never enjoyed this gift of God, neither do they wish to, but would ignorantly insult and be-little any who were striving to contend for the faith once delivered to the Saints, and would strive to weaken their endeavors in this laudable work by their ridicule and false testimony.

When the restored Church was in its infancy, in a revelation given July, 1830, the Lord said: "Require not miracles, except I shall command you, except casting out of devils, healing the sick, and against poisonous serpents, and against deadly poisons; and these ye shall not do, except it be required of you by them who desire it, that the scriptures might be fulfilled." Again, in another revelation given December of the same year, the Lord said: "And it shall come to pass that there shall be a great work in the land, even among the Gentiles, for their folly and their abominations shall be made manifest in the eyes of all people; For I am God, and mine arm is not shortened; and I will show miracles, signs, and wonders, unto all those who believe on my name. And whoso shall ask in my name in faith, they shall cast out devils; they shall heal the sick; they shall cause the blind to receive their sight, and the deaf to hear, and the dumb to speak, and the lame to walk; and the time speedily cometh that great things are to be shown forth unto the children of men; but without faith shall not anything be shown forth except desolations upon Babylon, the same which has made all nations drink of the wine of the wrath of her fornication" (Doctrine and Covenants, section xxi, 13 and 14; section xxxv, 7 to 11, last edition).

This agrees with the Prophet Joel, quoted by the Apostle Peter on the day of Pentecost: "And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, (one of the gifts of the Spirit,) and your young men shall see visions and your old men shall dream dreams; and on my servants and on my handmaidens I will pour out in those days of my Spirit; and they shall prophesy: And I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke."

Who has promised this? God has, and He will most assuredly do it. We have never heard of the Elders of the Church of Christ saying that they had power to do these things; they do testify that the gifts and blessings of the Gospel are restored, and that they are enjoyed by the Latter-day Saints who believe, and have faith in these gifts and blessings, but they know very well that it is God who heals the sick, opens the eyes of the blind, or causes the lame to walk. He works on natural principles—what is miraculous to us, is

not to Him. It is necessary that faith should be exercised, and this is a gift of God. All miracles, signs and wonders wrought in the kingdom of God are according to His own will and pleasure, for the accomplishment of His own purposes, and to His own honor and glory.

After Christ's wonderful sermon on the mount, when He came down from the mountain great multitudes followed Him, amongst them a leper, who, doubtless, had heard the sermon and believed Jesus was sent of God, and he worshiped Him and said: "Lord, if thou wilt thou canst make me clean." Here was his faith manifested; it had been inspired by the Word of God in the preaching; Jesus knew this, He put forth His hand and touched him, and said: "I will; be thou clean," and immediately his leprosy was cleansed. Did the Savior tell him to publish it abroad as an evidence of His divine mission? No! He said: "See thou tell no man; but go thy way, shew thyself to the priest, and offer the gift that Moses commanded, for a testimony unto them." Also, in the case of the centurion, when Jesus was at Capernaum, who having heard Jesus, or heard of Him and believed, desired He would heal his servant who was very sick of the palsy. Jesus said, "I will come and heal him." The centurion answered and said, "Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof; but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed." Here was an evidence of faith, and such as to surprise Jesus, who declared that He had not found so great faith in Israel. He said unto the centurion, "Go thy way; and as thou hast believed, so be it done unto thee," and the servant was healed through the faith of his master.

We might multiply such evidences, but let us now look upon another picture. Jesus was in His own country and taught in the synagogue; the people were astonished, and said, "Whence hath this *man* this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us? Whence then hath this *man* all these things? And they were offended in him." Here we have a different effect manifested. The same principles taught, but with very different results—there was no faith. Jesus said, "A prophet is not without honor, save in his own country, and in his own house," and, we are informed, "He did not many mighty works there because of their unbelief." They had no faith; they were captious, like a great many are to-day, for human nature is much the same—the same cause producing the same results. No doubt they looked upon Him as a deluder of the people, and those who believed in Him and in these blessings as dupes, because they did not know anything about the principle of faith or the signs that followed the believer. They judged others by themselves, and thought it all a delusion. Wise in their own conceit, they rejected the Truth and perished in their ignorance. It seems to be so natural to judge everything from our own stand-point.

The Latter-day Saints have to battle with the error of ages. During the last half century how many have rejected the loving message of mercy from our Heavenly Father, not having strength of character to think for themselves, and to ask of God, in the name of Jesus Christ, for the wisdom they lack, and which the popular religions of the world are powerless to give. The Apostle has stated in very simple language that there were a diversity of

gifts, but the same Spirit, and that the manifestation of the Spirit was given to every man in the faith, for he was writing unto the Church at Corinth, to profit withal. To one the word of wisdom; to another the word of knowledge; to another *faith*, to another the gifts of healing; to another the working of miracles; to another prophecy and so forth, but all by the same Spirit; and these gifts are enjoyed by those who are called to be Saints according to the good will and pleasure of our Heavenly Father, and not according to the vain desires of the wicked and ungodly who know not God, with a view to their conversion, who manifestly prefer the popular way of Babylon to the strait and narrow way that leads to endless lives. But no matter what is said, the Truth remains; the Gospel is restored, it is being preached by the authority of God, and the signs follow the believer.

THE MILLENNIAL STAR.—The next number, 52, will complete the forty-eighth volume of the STAR, and we take this opportunity of kindly thanking our subscribers for their liberal patronage. We hope the STAR has been a welcome visitor, that it will continue to be so, and that you will favor us with your continued patronage. To our agents we say, use your influence to extend its circulation. With the New Year we shall, D.V., issue the first number of the forty-ninth volume. We also take this opportunity of thanking our contributors and correspondents for their kindly labors, hoping they will still continue to take an interest in our luminary. We have much pleasure in wishing all The Compliments of the Season; may you enjoy a peaceful, happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

ARRIVALS AND APPOINTMENTS.—Elders William H. Hill and Alexander W. Rankin arrived in Liverpool on the 11th inst., per S.S. *Nevada*, of the Guion line. They are in good health and spirits. Elder Hill is appointed to labor in the Leeds Conference, and Elder Rankin in the Glasgow Conference.

BIRMINGHAM CONFERENCE.—Meetings of the Birmingham Conference will be held at Hockley Chapel, Hunter's Vale, off Farm Street, Birmingham, on Sunday, January 2, 1887, commencing at 10-30 a.m., and 2-30 and 6 p.m.

BRISTOL CONFERENCE.—The Bristol Conference is postponed until further notice.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Brigham City, Utah, Nov. 13, 1886.

President D. H. Wells.

Dear Brother,—Two years ago the 11th of October last I left my home, family and friends to go to the British Isles to preach the Gospel without money or hire. I left a happy family and a good home to go to a cold world and do that which I would not have done for money.

After a pleasant journey of sixteen days, I landed in Liverpool on the 27th, a cold, wet and dull day. Here, after having formed an agreeable acquaintance with my brethren, we were called upon to part. I was appointed to the London Conference, and my feelings at that time I cannot describe to you. Nothing but a knowledge of the truth of the work would have in-

duced me to go to the world as I afterwards did. I had lived among that despised people called "Mormons" for thirty years, and knew them well, and, notwithstanding they have faults as well as others, yet I knew them to be a good people.

I labored for eighteen months in the Berks and Wilts District of the London Conference, and the Lord blessed me with much success. I labored the rest of my time in London, the last five months in charge of the Conference.

I feel to thank God for the privilege of being counted worthy to go to the world as one of His warning messengers in this important age of the world; and now I have returned, I hope I may continue to have His Spirit with me, that I may still labor in the cause of truth.

To my brethren and sisters of Old England let me say, keep faithful and true, the work is of God and will never fail, whatever you or I may do, but let us try to be found ready when He, the Lord Jesus, shall be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, taking vengeance on them that know not God, and obey not the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

I wish to take this method of thanking all my brethren and sisters for their kindness to me while in England, for they were, one and all, very kind to me indeed, and my prayer for them all, who wish to serve God and keep His commandments, is, that they may soon have the privilege I now enjoy, of making their own homes among these grand old mountains with the people of God.

I visited President L. Snow at the Penitentiary. He looks well and feels well, and sends his kind regards to all.

Now, dear Brother Wells, let me thank you for your many favors and kindness to me while in England, and may we all be found true to the end, is the prayer of your sincere friend and brother, WILLIAM HORSLEY.

31, Latimer Road, Notting Hill,
London, W., Dec. 6, 1886.

President D. H. Wells.

Dear Brother,—It affords us very much pleasure to report to you the success that has so far attended our labors in establishing a Branch in this western part of the great city of London.

On Sunday, Nov. 5th, we held two meetings here and had a very enjoyable time. In the evening the house, together with all the furniture, etc., was dedicated to the Lord to be used for a place to worship God, and for His servants to transact the business of the London Conference.

After the opening exercises in the evening, a few appropriate remarks were made upon the sacredness of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, the reasons for partaking of it, and the benefits to be derived therefrom. After partaking of that holy ordinance, it was moved, seconded and carried unanimously that we organise a new Branch to be known as the West London Branch of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. It was also proposed and carried by unanimous vote, that Elder Wm. Woods, jun., traveling missionary, act as President of the West London Branch. It was announced that there would be a Sunday school and a theological class every Sunday morning at 10-30, and meetings at 2-30 and 6-30 p.m.; also meetings on Wednesday night at 7-30. A cordial invitation was extended to all. The attendance at these first two meetings was much larger than we could have anticipated. Including the three missionaries present, and counting the children, we numbered twenty-five at the afternoon, and thirty present at the evening meeting, mostly all members who lived too far away from other Branches to attend meetings. Two children were blessed, and a time of rejoicing was experienced by all present. Sixteen names were handed in by those wishing to become members of the new Branch.

Three very effective discourses were delivered during the day, by Elders D. H. Morris, Wm. Woods, jun. and myself, upon the principles of the Gospel, its restoration by angels from heaven, the importance of the message sent, and the consequences following those who accept it or refuse to obey the heavenly message.

We feel greatly encouraged by the success and the blessing of God that has attended our labors. The Elders throughout the Conference appear to be united in their efforts to let the people know that the Lord has sent them out to warn the nation that He has commenced to do His marvelous work and a wonder, and that this is a day of warning, and not of many words.

With kindest regards to all at "42," and praying God to bless you, I remain, your brother in the Gospel of the kingdom,

EDWARD DAVIS.

Manchester, Dec. 7, 1886.

President D. H. Wells.

Dear Brother,—As the year is drawing to a close, I take pleasure in reporting to you our labors and prospects in the Manchester Conference.

During the summer we held meetings in the streets, market places and byways. We met with some opposition and much prejudice, but generally had good attention, particularly in the villages in the country. In this labor the Saints, in the different Branches, have sometimes assisted us, and walked many miles to take part in our meetings. They have also been diligent in teaching their fellow workmen and neighbors the principles of the Gospel, and, in this way, some have been brought into the Church, and these in turn have brought others in, and thus the leaven worketh.

We are now circulating tracts, and although we are sometimes very abruptly repulsed, we occasionally get an invitation to call in and talk on the principles of our religion, to which we gladly respond and, in some cases, our interviews result in removing prejudice and bringing the honest seekers after truth into the Church, where they rejoice in the possession of that light and the principles of salvation they so much desired.

Several have been baptized in the different Branches lately, and we baptized ten in Manchester last Wednesday and expect to baptize a few more ere long.

At our monthly priesthood meeting on the first Thursday in the month, which the Elders observe as fast day, the reports of the several Districts were encouraging; the Saints, with but few exceptions, are living their religion and rejoicing in the testimony of Jesus. We have three Mutual Improvement Associations and two Sunday Schools that are well attended and doing much good, and reflect great credit on the brethren who have charge of them.

I thank my Heavenly Father for his blessings and for the prosperity attending our labors. Truly He is confirming the testimony of His servants, and the Saints are rejoicing in the possession of the gifts and blessings as promised.

Ever praying for the welfare of Zion, I remain your brother in the Gospel,

WM. PRICE.

MODERN SHAMS IN SOCIETY.

NOTHING is so clearly apparent to the intelligent observer of modern society as the many deceptions and the false glitter which it contains. There are social circles into which one may enter where the false and deceptive find no place, but these are in the minority. Glance at the average society of today, and there is but little in it that is really what one supposes it to be. How often is it that we find men and women carrying impressions of wealth and station far beyond their real income! Dignity is found to be only pretension, refinement an artificial gloss, and intelligence but a verbal display. White satin dresses are worn where the plainest muslin is scarcely within the wearer's income; broadcloth, where the simplest business suit, if honestly paid for, would always be a draft upon the revenue received. Flowers are worn in profusion, jewelry loaned, and carriages hired by those to whom the acquirement of the necessities of daily life is a struggle. Society instead of being made a great compact, designed to

promote the good of man and women, is used only as a cunning contrivance to palm of unreal virtues, and give to the unsophisticated wrong and injurious impressions. Host and hostess share in the general deception with their guests, although neither is conscious of the other's deceit. The china on the table of the hostess is admired and its possession envied by her guest, while the former in return is driven to a maddening inward jealousy at the gorgeous garments of her guest. The guest knows not that the china is loaned, the hostess is ignorant of the unpaid bill of the dressmaker. The furniture, heavy portieres, and expensive draperies are examined with admiration, and so fixed becomes the attention of the guest upon the embellishments of the home of her hostess that no room is left in the mind for a suspicion of a plan of purchase commonly known as the "instalment." The young men, with only a cursory knowledge of the cost of feminine apparel, regards what is only inexpensive silk or satin as the richest goods the market affords. The young lady, in turn, silently calculates her chaperon's income by the flowers he sends, the liveried carriage in which he escorts her to the reception, and the full-dress suit in which he is arrayed. Her untrained mind knows not the existence of places where a lunch may be had by a modest indulgence in beverage, and establishments where clothing is sold for a night.—*Brooklyn Magazine.*

UTAH NEWS.

(Summarized from Territorial Papers.)

Thanksgiving Day was duly observed in Utah on the 25th of November.

Wm. H. Tovey, in the Twentieth Ward, Salt Lake City, has been arrested on the usual charge.

The *Juvenile Instructor* has reached its twenty-one years. Success to it. It is a most welcome visitor.

In the case of the United States *vs.* Lorin Farr; unlawful cohabitation, the jury rendered a verdict of not guilty.

Provo is no longer a prohibition town. The City Council voted six to four in favor of licensing the liquor traffic in Provo.

A. W. Winberg was before Commissioner McKay on Wednesday, Nov. 24th, on the going charge, and was bound over to await the action of the grand jury.

Thomas Jenkins, of the Fourth Ward, Salt Lake City, promised to obey the law as interpreted by the Courts, and sentence was suspended pending good behavior.

Judge Baskin and Judge Bennett are going to Washington, in the interest of the anti-"Mormon" rule or ruin clique, to try for more unconstitional legislation we presume. We shall see.

Mr. John Marriott and Mr. James W. Burton, of Marriott, have been placed under bonds to await the action of the grand jury. Also Mr. Joseph Hogan, of Bountiful, who plead guilty and is out on bail.

George Dunford, of Salt Lake City, went into the court room on Wednesday, Nov. 24th, and plead guilty to the charge of unlawful cohabitation. He was sentenced to six month's imprisonment and to pay a fine of $150.

On Wednesday, Nov. 24th. when taken before Commissioner McKay, in Salt Lake City, on the charge of unlawful cohabitation, Thomas Fenton waived examination, and gave $1,000 bail for his appearance to answer to any bill found against him by the grand jury.

The Hon. John T. Caine has received his certificate of election, for Delegate to the House of Representatives of the United States; 22,483 votes were cast, of which number John T. Caine received 19,605 and W. M. Ferry received 2,810, scattering 68. He has gone to Washington.

A musical meeting was held in the Assembly Hall, Salt Lake City, on Thanksgiving Day. Delegations of children from the Ward Sunday Schools and choirs, under the leadership of Professor Evan Stephens, gave a very gratifying entertainment. The Professor is a success in all such affairs.

The Salt Lake county court met on Wednesday, Nov. 24th, for the purpose of appointing a collector to fill the office of N. V. Jones. After some balloting the name of L. G. Hardy, a member of the Woolley, Young and Hardy firm, was announced as having received a majority. Mr. Hardy is a young man whose integrity and honesty stand as high as those of any one who could have been chosen for the place.

The martyrs in the Penitentiary were entertained on Thanksgiving Day. By courtesy of Marshal Dyer, to whom an application for the privilege was made, The Young Ladies' Association of Brigham City was permitted to supply the Thanksgiving dinner. Brigham City is the home of Apostle Lorenzo Snow, who is incarcerated for conscience sake. After the dinner, a mixed entertainment of music, singing, recitations and readings, making an attractive variety, was given to the prisoners.

The following is from the *Deseret News* of Nov. 20, 1886. Any printed or written document circulated, or that may be circulated among the Saints of God as a report of any sermon, or part of a sermon, sermons or parts of sermons, or of any private or public remarks said to have been made by me, are unauthorized unless personally revised by me, or written over my signature. And the making and circulation of any such unauthorized report is without my sanction, and without my consent. MOSES THATCHER.

President A. M. Cannon, of the Salt Lake Stake, was arrested by Marshal Dyer, and Deputies Pratt, Vandercook and Cannon, Nov. 24th. The complaint, signed, as usual, by D. W. Rench, alleged that Angus M. Cannon, on the 1st day of January, 1884, and on divers days between that date and the first of August, 1886, lived and cohabited with one Sarah Cannon and Mattie Hughes as his wives. Mr. Cannon plead, Not Guilty. Bail was fixed at $10,000. The Marshal and party had been down to the "Church Farm" on the hunt, and as they were returning Mr. Cannon passed them in his buggy. The Marshal on being informed who he was overtook him and made the arrest without any trouble, there being no effort made to avoid it.

On Thursday, the 18th of Nov., in the Third District Court, at Blackfoot, Idaho, Brother S. R. Parkinson was called to receive sentence on a one-count indictment for unlawful cohabitation, of which he had been convicted. The penalty inflicted was six months' imprisonment in the Boise penitentiary and a fine of $300. A *Herald* correspondent writes that when Brother Parkinson